



## Volcano Communications Group

was established in 1903 as Volcano Telephone Company in a small brick building in the town of Volcano, California nestled in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. Having grown to 12 employees, the company moved to their current office in Pine Grove, California in 1968. Since that time, the company has continued to maintain their dedication to providing its rural service area with telephone, internet, and television services that rival those of metropolitan areas. Volcano is a family oriented company with three generations currently involved in the operations of the company and is dedicated to both its employees and the community at large.

### Connectivity for Community Growth

Volcano Communications has implemented a robust, resilient voice and data network with multiple backbone connections to various tier 1 and tier 2 providers. Part of what has made this possible is a partnership with other California companies and BTOP grant funds to implement a major fiber backbone infrastructure throughout many rural areas of California. This gives our customers access to urban type services. Volcano residents currently pay \$xx.xx/month and business customers pay \$xx.xx/month for voice service.

### Employment Opportunities

Volcano employs over 80 local residents providing competitive pay and comprehensive benefit packages which helps the local tax base and economy.

### Community Involvement & Education

Volcano Communications is very active in local community organizations and activities. We facilitate and participate in many local fund raising efforts and help fund organizations critical to the surrounding communities, including Amador and Calaveras county food banks. Volcano also maintains an active scholarship program for local high school graduates which helps develop our youth, further enriching our community.

## Points of Interest

- Address the High Cost Program's arbitrary \$2 billion budget for small rural telcos.
- Fully fund the ACAM and Rate of Return (RoR) high-cost mechanisms at the FCC's originally proposed funding level.
- At a minimum incorporate an inflationary adjustment for the High-Cost Program's budget to put it on level playing fields with other USF programs.
- Expedite permitting process on Federal lands to reduce costs and delays of building out broadband projects.
- Providing video has become more costly due to increasing content costs and retransmission costs Broadcasters are also moving to the Next Generation ATSC 3.0 standard, which will increase costs for small providers.
- RUS low-interest loans are an integral part of the rural broadband success. The Administration has a proposed 21% reduction in funding for USDA, which could affect RUS.
- Avoid using government funds to deploy duplicative networks in rural areas. Healthcare institutions, schools, libraries, FirstNet, and municipalities should work with local incumbent telcos prior to pursuing other options.

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